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Upcoming Meetings

3/5 Board of Aldermen

3/12 Planning Commission

3/14 Garner Revitalization Association Board

3/16 Sr. Citizen's Advisory Committee

3/19 Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

3/20 Board of Aldermen

3/22 Board of Adjustment

3/27 Board of Aldermen Work Session

For a complete calendar of events, visit the News section of the Town's website:

www.GarnerNC.gov

CITIZEN UPDATE

GARNER

A Great Place to Be

Farewell to our Town Manager

Citizens and Town of Garner employees will bid a fond farewell to Town Manager Mary Lou Todd as she retires April 1. Ms. Todd's last day at work will be March 16. Mayor Ronnie Williams has said many times that "we'll never be able to replace her, we can only hire someone to take her place". He noted that "Mary Lou has been an ambassador, public servant and loyal employee of the Town of Garner for 36 years and she will be missed". Mayor Williams sums it up for all of us as he says "I wish her a happy and productive retirement. May she enjoy her retirement spending time with that special grandchild, her family, friends and loved ones!"

HAPPY RETIREMENT

Agendas & Minutes On-line

Citizens now have improved access to the Board of Aldermen's meeting agendas as well as minutes from those meetings. The Town website offers the option to view upcoming meeting agendas along with supporting documents such as maps, proposed resolutions, and proposed ordinances. To learn about Board discussions and decisions, interested citizens have a choice of reading meeting minutes or listening to the session on-line. This information is available by visiting www.GarnerNC.gov, clicking on "government", and then "view Board of Aldermen meeting minutes" or "view upcoming Board of Aldermen meeting agenda".

Relay for Life Seeking Sponsors & Teams

Garner Relay for Life planners are looking for more teams to join the 30+ teams who are already at work raising money for the April 27-28 event. Businesses, churches, civic groups, school groups, or just groups of families & friends are encouraged to participate. Lori Webb (lorilwebb@earthlink.net) and other planning committee members will be happy to help you get organized. Another emphasis in the coming weeks is for corporate sponsors. Businesses that contribute \$350 or more qualify for this designation which brings with it privileges such as names and logos on the team t-shirts and advertising in the program. March 13 is the deadline for corporate sponsors to get their names on the t-shirts. 2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the Garner event which has raised over \$1,000,000 during the past nine years. For more information on organizing a team or becoming a corporate sponsor, visit www.acsevents.org/garnerrelay. Also, check out the site for information on fundraisers around town between now and Relay.



Surplus Property For Sale



The Board of Aldermen recently authorized the sale of surplus property through the GovDeals on-line auction website. This is an e-bay type municipal on-line auction group that has been approved by the NC League of Municipalities. Radios and phones are the primary items for sale at this time.

Garner Road Sidewalks

The Board of Aldermen recently authorized an agreement with Municipal Engineering Services for design and construction administration for a sidewalk on Garner Road.

NC Governor's Highway Safety Grant

The Board of Aldermen recently approved a request from the Police Department to accept a \$10,000 NC Governor's Highway Safety Grant. These funds will purchase a 2004 police motorcycle for use in a basic police motor program. No matching funds are required with this grant.

Chamber Business & Consumer Expo

The Garner Chamber of Commerce is making plans to present an exciting business and consumer fair for the citizens of Garner. Expo2007 will be held on Thursday, April 26 at Garner United Methodist Church located at the intersection of Vandora Springs Road and Highway 70. Look for details in our next newsletter.

Recent Board Actions

On February 5, the following items were approved by the Board of Aldermen:

- Rezoning and conditional use permit for a 3000 square foot building to be located in Garner Village Shopping Center.
- Conditional use permit for an office building located on the west side of Benson Road north of the Southview subdivision.
- Special use permit to divide a 2.39 acre tract into a six lot residential subdivision located off South Wade Avenue.



Black History Month

Noting that during Black History Month, "all Americans are encouraged to reflect on past successes and challenges of African Americans and look to the future to continue to improve society so that we live up to the ideals of freedom, equality and justice", Mayor Ronnie Williams proclaimed February "Black History Month" in Garner. The proclamation acknowledged that "much of the Town of Garner's honor, strength and stature can be attributed to the diversity of cultures and traditions that are celebrated by the residents of this great region". It further stated that "as a result of their determination, hard work, intelligence and perseverance, African Americans have made valuable and lasting contributions to the Town of Garner and our state, achieving exceptional success in all aspects of society including business, education, politics, science, and the arts". Black History Month was formally adopted in 1976 to honor and affirm the importance of Black History throughout our American experience. Mayor Williams signed the proclamation with several citizens at the Garner Senior Center on February 6.

Easter Egg Hunt and Kite Fly

Get ready for the Annual Egg Hunt & Kite Fly at Lake Benson Park. Participants can decorate and fly their own kite, play on inflatable amusement attractions, and participate in an egg roll. Children 8 and under will be divided into three age groups (2 & under, 3 - 5, 6 - 8) to hunt for candy eggs and prizes. Participants should bring their own Easter basket.

There is no rain date for this event. In case of inclement weather, candy will be handed out under the large shelter between 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM.

Date: Saturday, March 31
Time: 10:00 am - Kite Fly & Inflatable Amusements
11:00 am - Egg Roll
12:00 pm - Easter Egg Hunt
Fee: FREE
Location: Lake Benson Park



Brunch with the Bunny (Ages 2 - 4)

Look who is coming down the Bunny Trail: it's Peter Cotton Tail! Join us for a light snack, craft project, and a picture with the Bunny!

Registration deadline is Thursday, March 22.

Date: Thursday, March 29
Time: 9:30 - 10:30 AM

Fee: \$5 Town Resident; \$7 Non-Resident

Location: Avery Street Recreation Center

Minimum Participants: 4; Maximum Participants: 10

Annual Tree Giveaway

Come and celebrate Arbor Day by planting a tree. Get your free 18" - 24" seedlings at Town Hall beginning March 17. Park staff will be on hand to answer questions about planting and care. Trees will be available through the end of the month or as supplies last.



Date: Saturday, March 17

Time: 8:00 - 10:00 am

Fee: FREE

Location: Garner Town Hall

Spring 2007 Unprepared Trash & Yard Waste Collection Schedule

SEPARATE PILES: 1) YARD WASTE 2) OTHER TRASH
TOWN COLLECTION CREWS WILL NOT COLLECT PILES THAT ARE NOT SEPARATED IN THIS MANNER.

COLLECTION DATES BY ROUTE AND ROUTE COLOR:

If you are normally collected on:	Waste must be at the curb:
Monday (Red & Gray routes)	Monday, March 19
Wednesday (Orange & White routes)	Monday, March 19
Thursday (Purple & Yellow routes)	Monday, March 26
Friday (Brown route)	Monday, March 26
Tuesday (Green, Tan & Gold routes)	Monday, April 2
Friday (Blue route)	Monday, April 2

During the Spring Unprepared Trash and Yard Waste Clean Up, residents can place trash, some bulky waste items, and up to 4 rimless tires behind the curb for collection. No white goods (appliances) or hazardous wastes will be collected. No waste produced by any commercial tree services or other commercial activity/paid services will be picked up. Household items and yard waste to be collected can be placed behind the curb up to one week prior to the designated Monday for your route.

Contract Approved for Park Consulting

On February 20 the Board of Alderman approved a contract with obs Landscape Architects for planning and design work on the nature center and related facilities at White Deer Park. The Town has been awarded a NC Parks & Recreation Trust Fund Grant of \$500,000 for this project.



Board Authorizes Trails Grant

On February 5, the Board of Aldermen authorized the Parks & Recreation Department to pursue a Recreational Trails Grant from the State of North Carolina for trail side improvements to the walking trail at Lake Benson Park.

This grant would provide 75% of the funding towards the total project cost. The Board also selected a site plan prepared by Parks & Recreation which noted placement of parking and a water fountain and certified the availability of funds for the Town's share of the cost.

Education News

STARS on Stage

Garner Educational Foundation's (GEF) second annual STARS on Stage Celebration is scheduled for April 12th at the Garner United Methodist Church Christian Life Center from 7-9 pm. Performances, art displays, and awards will showcase the talents and skills of the students and staff in the ten Garner-area schools. Bill Leslie of WRAL will again be the emcee for the event and Barnes and Noble will recognize GEF's Garner Reader Leader winners.

GEF introduced the idea of a celebration of the achievements of and recognitions received by the students and teachers to the ten Garner-area schools during the 2004-05 school year. Initial developmental planning for this celebration—STARS on Stage (Students and Teachers Achieving Recognition and Success)—was conducted during Spring 2005 and Fall 2006. The first STARS on Stage Celebration was held on April 4, 2006 at the First Baptist Church Christian Life Center with over 250 students and teachers being recognized and almost 500 parents and community members in attendance.

Tickets will be available at the ten schools after mid-March for a \$5 donation. For further information, contact Steve Moore at samoore@wcpss.net. For directions to the church, visit <http://www.garnerumc.org/welcome/directions.html>.



Children
and
Community
First
IN GARNER

Camp Invention

The 2007 summer session of Camp Invention in Garner will be June 25-29 at East Garner Magnet Middle School. The Garner Educational Foundation (GEF) joined with Na-

tional Inventors Hall of Fame Foundation to offer a session of Camp Invention at East Garner Magnet Middle School on July 17-21, 2006, for rising first graders through rising sixth graders in the Garner area. Students attending this academic enrichment day camp participated in activities focusing on science, math, history, technology, and the arts as they studied inventions.

Further information can be found at www.campinvention.org or by calling 800-968-4332. GEF contact for the Camp is Marjorie Barefoot, marjfoot@bellsouth.net.

New Principals

At its February 6 meeting, the Board of Education named Jennifer Benkovitz principal of Creech Road Elementary School and Christopher Lassiter principal of Smith Elementary School. Ms. Benkovitz served as assistant principal of Hunter Elementary since 2006. Prior to that, she worked as assistant principal of Powell Elementary for three years. She was a principal intern and teacher in other NC school districts. Mr. Lassiter served as assistant principal of Baileywick Elementary since 2004. He was an assistant principal intern at Combs Elementary and a teacher at East Wake High.

School Board Elections

In response to citizens' concerns about School Board elections, the Board of Aldermen recently adopted a resolution requesting the State General Assembly enact legislation to require Wake County School Board Members to be elected by the county at large. The resolution cited that the current "elections by district does not encourage members to represent citizens from the entire county".

Economic Development

Klassy Kids Daycare, 1600 Benson Road, is nearing completion.

Crescent State Bank, 905 Vandora Springs Road (former Garner TV & Appliance location) is permitted and construction is underway.

Residential construction of single family homes has slowed somewhat, but there is still a wide variety of new homes in the Garner area.

Public Hearings Set

Public Hearings on the following are set for March 5, 2007 at 7:30 PM in the Town of Garner Board Room:

Special Use Site Plans:

SUP-SP-07-01, Anfesa's Jewelers – Development Consulting, Inc. is requesting approval for a jewelry store. The site is located at the intersection of US Hwy 70 East and Management Way and can be further identified as Wake County PIN 1720 09 7266.

SUP-SP-07-02, Aversboro Road Elementary School Replacement – Alpha & Omega Group are requesting approval for demolition and replacement of the existing elementary school. The site is located at 1605 Aversboro Road and can be further identified as Wake County PIN 1710 45 2918.